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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Jodi F. Aboujaoude

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EXAMINER

PHAM, THIERRY L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/769,923

Applicant(s)

ABOUJAOUDE ET AL.

Examiner

Thierry L Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kohtani et al (U.S. 5475475).

Regarding claim 1, Kohtani discloses a method of forming an output image in an image forming system (image forming apparatus, fig. 1), comprising the steps of:

- (1) receiving image (image reader for reading image information of originals, fig. 2, col. 3, lines 40-50) data corresponding to an input image on an input document; and
- (2) reproducing (reproducing via image forming apparatus, fig. 1) the image data a selected number of times (plurality of originals are formed on a single sheet/page, figs. 10-11b, abstract and col. 1, lines 50-67) on a printing medium to form said output image.

Regarding claim 2, Kohtani further discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising the step of selecting the number of times (figs. 10-11b, abstract and col. 1, lines 50-67) said input image is replicated to form said output image on said printing medium.

Regarding claim 4, Kohtani further discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving user instructions (users instructions via control panel, fig. 3) corresponding to formation of said output image.

Regarding claim 5, Kohtani further discloses a method of forming an output image in an image forming system (image forming apparatus, fig. 1), comprising the steps of:

- (1) obtaining instructions (figs. 10-11b) relating to image formation;

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(2) obtaining input image data (input image information, abstract and col. 1, lines 45-67) relating to an input image and based at least partially on said instructions;

(3) forming (forming via image forming apparatus, fig. 1) said output image comprising said input image replicated one or more times (plurality of originals are formed on a single sheet/page, figs. 10-11b, abstract and col. 1, lines 50-67) on a single printing medium as directed by said instructions.

Regarding claim 6, Kohtani further discloses the method according to claim 5, wherein said obtaining instructions step comprises communicating with a user and receiving user instructions (control panel, fig. 3) as to formation of said output image.

Regarding claim 8, Kohtani further discloses the method according to claim 5, wherein said obtaining instructions step comprises receiving instructions as to a number of replications (figs. 10-11b, col. 1, lines 45-67) of said input image required.

Regarding claim 9, Kohtani further discloses the method according to claim 5, wherein said obtaining input image data comprises scanning at least a portion (figs. 8-9b) of an image to be printed.

Regarding claim 10, Kohtani further discloses the method according to claim 5, wherein said obtaining input image data comprises receiving a signal from a remote device containing said input image data (receiving print data and/or image data from remote device are widely known in the art, i.e., networked printers/copy machines).

Regarding claim 11, Kohtani further discloses the method according to claim 5, wherein said forming an image step comprises printing said input image in repeated fashion up to a predetermined number (abstract and col. 1, lines 40-67) in concurrence with said instructions.

Regarding claim 12, Kohtani further discloses the method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of automatically detecting dimensions of said input image and automatically

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determining (automatic determines number of originals to be printed on a single page, col. 1, lines 40-67) said predetermined number of repeated input images able to be printed on a single printing medium.

Regarding claim 13, Kohtani further discloses the method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of allowing a user to specify an offset (specify offset via control panel, fig. 3) for said input image on said printing medium.

Regarding claims 14-18 recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claims 5-6, 8-13 above; therefore, claims 14-18 are rejected for the same rejection rationale/basis as described in claims 5-6, 8-13.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 3 & 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohtani as described in claims 1 and/or 5 above, and in view of Arai et al (U.S. 6020094).

Regarding claims 3 & 7, Kohtani does not explicitly disclose the step of selecting only a portion of said input image and replicating said portion in said output image on said printing medium.

Arai, in the same field of endeavor for duplicate printings, teaches the step of selecting only a portion (selecting a desired portion of the input image to be duplicated, abstract and cols. 2-3) of said input image and replicating said portion in said output image on said printing medium.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Kohtani as per teachings of Arai because of a following reason: (1) to allow

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operators to select a desire portion and/or section of the inputted image to be duplicated/printed; therefore, to reduce paper waste and/or production costs.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Kohtani with Arai to obtain the invention as specified in claims 3 & 7.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(1) U.S. 5144452 to Abuyama, discloses an apparatus/method for duplicating multiple originals onto a single output medium.

(2) U.S. 5995722 to Kishida, discloses a networked printers via a communication network.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L Pham whose telephone number is (703) 305-1897. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K Moore can be reached on (703)308-7452. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thierry L. Pham

TP


GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER